

### CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method for signal combining within a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:  
 receiving a first signal at a first finger of a receiver;  
 receiving a second signal at a second finger of the receiver;  
 generating a first chip stream from the first signal;  
 generating a second chip stream from the second signal; ~~and~~  
 combining the first and the second chip streams to produce a combined chip stream; and  
Walsh despreding the combined chip stream to produce a symbol stream.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating the first chip stream comprises the step of utilizing a buffered PN sequence to generate the first chip stream.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of generating the second chip stream comprises the step of utilizing the buffered PN sequence to generate the second chip stream.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of deinterleaving the symbol stream to produce a deinterleaved symbol stream.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of decoding the deinterleaved symbol stream.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
 receiving a third signal at the first finger of the receiver, wherein the first and the third signals are received at separate antennas;  
 despreading the first and third signals within the first finger of the receiver; and  
 combining the first and the third despread signals to produce the first chip stream.

8. (currently amended) A method for signal combining, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a first chip stream, wherein the first chip stream has been despread with a Pseudo Noise (PN) code;  
receiving a second chip stream, wherein the second chip stream has been despread with the PN code; ~~and~~  
combining the first and the second chip streams to produce a combined chip stream; and Walsh despreding the combined chip stream to produce a symbol stream.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving the first chip stream comprises the step of receiving the first chip stream output from a first finger of a receiver.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of receiving the second chip stream comprises the step of receiving the second chip stream output from a second finger of the receiver.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:  
~~Walsh despreding the combined chip stream to produce a symbol stream;~~  
deinterleaving the symbol stream to produce a deinterleaved symbol stream; and  
decoding the deinterleaved symbol stream.

12. (currently amended) A receiver comprising:
  - a first finger path having a first signal as an input and outputting a first chip stream;
  - a second finger path having a second signal as an input and outputting a second chip stream; and
  - a chip combiner having the first and the second chip streams as an input and outputting a combined chip stream; and
  - a Walsh despreader having the combined chip stream as an input and outputting a symbol stream.
  
13. (currently amended) The receiver of claim 12 further comprising:
  - ~~a Walsh despreader having the combined chip stream as an input and outputting a symbol stream;~~
  - a deinterleaver having the symbol stream as an input and outputting a deinterleaved symbol stream; and
  - a decoder having the deinterleaved symbol stream as an input and outputting a decoded symbol stream.
  
14. (original) The receiver of claim 12 wherein the first finger path comprises:
  - a first despreader having a first antenna as an input, and outputting a first despread signal;
  - a second despreader having a second antenna as an input and outputting a second despread signal; and
  - a combiner having the first and the second despread signals as an input and outputting a combined chip stream.
  
15. (original) The receiver of claim 12 wherein the first signal is a first multipath component of a received signal and the second signal is a second multipath signal of the received signal.